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(54) Title: FRAMING SYSTEM FOR SECURING AND DISPLAYING FLAT SHEET MATERIALS**(55) Abstract**

A peripheral framing system for mounting and displaying a poster or other sheet material. The framing system requires no rigid backing since the framing elements themselves serve to support the poster or other displayed object. The system is comprised of a base structure, a clamping structure and, if desired, a protective translucent covering. The base structure includes several elongated frame members, each of which extends between a pair of angled ends. The ends of adjacent base frame members join together by means of a mortise and tenon to form a rectangular base frame when assembled. The clamping structure comprises several clamping members, one for each of the frame members, with each of the clamping members having a plurality of pegs. The base frame members, translucent cover, and displayed object each have an equal number of holes to receive the pegs. The holes in the base frame members are used to receive and secure the complementary pegs to thereby retain the translucent cover and displayed object in place between the clamping members and base frame members. Thus, during assembly, the displayed object and translucent covering are laid flat on the assembled base frame with their clearance holes aligned with the holes in the frame members. Then, the clamping structure is brought down into place. The clamping structure therefore fastens the displayed object and protective cover securely into place. The result is a frame which displays and protects an object without the need for a rigid backing. Also disclosed is a protective canister capable of transporting and storing the entire framing system. The protective canister comprises a translucent tube with endcaps and is capable of containing the disassembled framing system, the displayed object and the translucent covering. In this manner, the protective canister provides convenient and efficient means in which to store the entire system when it is not being displayed.